

THE SCROLL

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

A group of seminarians recently visited O'Gorman for a day. For more on the seminarians and their visit see page 2.

Students, faculty preparing to visit Germany, Costa Rica this summer

Joe Angerhofer
Assistant Editor

Two groups will be taking major trips abroad this summer. One group will be heading to Germany while another will venture to Costa Rica.

The Costa Rica trip this summer has the Spanish department excited.

"It's an opportunity for everyone to see the things we learned about in class in real life," said Mr. Chad LeBrun. "I remember a time when some of the students walked into a restaurant and kept on walking right past the sitting area and into the kitchen not realizing that the seating

area was so small."

The Spanish trip will take place from May 23-June 1.

"It brings things to life in a way that is impossible within the four walls of a classroom," said Mrs. Kelly Brose. "The experience of living things first hand can never be replicated, no matter how hard we try."

The ten day trip will include lots of time for activities like ziplining, volcano tours, and horseback riding.

Then, in early June the German students take off for a three week visit to Germany.

"Seeing students explore reminds me of when I first came to the United States," said Ms.

Kristin Kuchenbecker.

Senior Chris Schall went on the German trip in the summer of 2014. "I believe it helps kids get out of the daily surroundings of OG, and see who they truly are," said Schall.

Kuchenbecker, a German native, sees an enlightening quality to the trip. "New inside cultural awareness and new friends who challenge them socially is good for students," said Kuchenbecker.

Kuchenbecker notes that students also do some of the teaching. "They helped me appreciate my own culture by pointing out things that I wouldn't have noticed," said Kuchenbecker.

SFCS salary initiative hopes to increase pay for teachers next year

Grace Wallin
Staff Writer

This year the SFCS community is endeavoring to raise Sioux Falls Catholic Schools (SFCS) teachers and staff salaries by 10 percent for the 2016-2017 school year.

Although supplementing teacher salaries has always been a priority for fundraisers, the work that has been done has simply not been enough.

Since its formation in 1991, the SFCS has been blessed with experienced and dedicated teachers who have helped shape the success of students in and outside of the classroom.

SFCS's achievements in academics as well as extra-curricular activities reflect the hard work these teachers commit year round, and the community feels it is time to show them appreciation for their efforts.

"The incredible education that is provided to the students at Sioux Falls Catholic Schools is second to none," said Executive Director of the SFCS Foundation Michelle Katen in a Sioux Falls Catholic Schools newsletter. "The types of successes that culminate at the high school do not happen by accident. All eight of our schools share in the awards that our students receive. If we are looking for key



Michelle Katen

performance indicators to justify the salaries of our staff, the accolades are definitely there to support it."

The revenue for the salary increase will focus on tuition and fundraising. Every family will contribute through tuition but those who are able will be encouraged to consider giving more. In addition, an enrollment incentive hopes to raise salaries by 1.5 percent by adding 50 students to the system.

The salary initiative offers the hope of a 10 percent increase for next school year but is also working to grow endowments for a sustainable funding solution. Until then this goal will have to be maintained through fundraising efforts and the generosity of the SFCS community.

SFCS seeking to boost enrollment throughout system

Connor Bell
Assistant Editor

As Sioux Falls keeps growing into the neighboring towns of Tea and Brandon, the Sioux Falls Catholic Schools (SFCS) hopes to seize the opportunity to bring more people into the Catholic school system while Sioux Falls continues to flourish.

"The branding for SFCS includes three powerful words within our mission....Community. Faith. Excellence," said Director of Development Katie Fritz.

The SFCS hopes to increase enrollment by 50 students in the 2016-2017 school year across the board.

One major goal between 2015-2020 is to have at least 200 students in each grade level within

the system.

Part of how the Catholic School System is hoping to accomplish this is with its new

**"The branding
for SFCS includes
three powerful words
within our mission.
Community. Faith.
Excellence"
- Katie Fritz**

marketing strategy.

The Sioux Falls Catholic Schools has gone all out with television ads, radio ads, billboards, digital media boards, digital media videos, and even word

of mouth.

Sioux Falls parishes have also put up new posters made by the marketing department that give ten reasons why Catholic schools might be the right fit.

"To expound on these core values we have incorporated: Have FAITH in your child's education. You BELONG here. You BELONG in BLUE and Eight Schools. One Community," said Fritz.

There have also been events held to encourage prospective families to send their children to Catholic schools.

Each elementary school has held a "Dinner & a Show" event to show families what the SFCS have to offer.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Students and parents attend the activity fair at O'Gorman High School on Jan. 25. The event is one way in which the SFCS hopes to boost enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year.

Seminarians visit school, share insights on calling

Melissa Sierra
Shreya Chandran

Recently, seminarians paid a visit to O’Gorman students during their classes. Among the group were O’Gorman graduates Max Marko, Will Penisten and Bailey Lauret.

Seminary is a theological college or divinity school in which students attempting to discern a call to the priesthood engage in religious study. Seminarians follow similar study to typical college students, but live all together and follow a stricter, religious schedule.

Max Marko, a 2014 O’Gorman graduate, cites O’Gorman’s curriculum as an integral part of his ultimate decision to join seminary.

“O’Gorman is a slam dunk,” said Marko. “I didn’t recognize it at the time but using the resources available like the chapel, Father Haggerty, the faith community, daily Mass, and



Max Marko

getting advice from all my teachers all helped plant the seed and keep me open to God’s will.”

Recent graduate Bailey Lauret has already noted the change seminary has had in both his spiritual and emotional life.

“I find myself turning to prayer more often,” said Lauret. “I can now see the good in others and the good in myself. The seminary has allowed me to be more open to what God wants me to do.”

The seminarians were surprised by how different seminary was to their prior misconceptions.

“What surprised me most was how normal everybody is. People



Bailey Lauret

come from all walks of life,” said Marko. “I’ve met a seminarian that was a guitarist trained by SlipKnot. Even though we are individuals, we are all coming together due to our shared desire to do what God has called us to do.”

Will Penisten, a 2012 O’Gorman graduate, transferred from SDSU into the seminary, showing that discernment does not always occur right out of high school.

“It was first and foremost a process,” said Penisten. “As my relationship with God deepened, I found myself looking to the priesthood more and more. I am still grow-



Will Penisten

ing in that faith - which is why I’m in the seminary.”

As seniors discern their own vocations, Marko has some advice. “Don’t be afraid. I have heard more stories of those who felt they were called to the seminary and did not go, than those who regret going.”

The decision to go into the seminary is different for everyone but O’Gorman alums agreed that joining the seminary changed their lives for the better.

“It has made me a better man and a better Catholic. The seminary has helped me know who I am because I know Jesus better,” said Penisten.

Millions to venture to Poland this year for World Youth Day

Ben Longley
Assistant Editor

In June of this year many people from the Sioux Falls Diocese will be making the pilgrimage from Sioux Falls to Kraków, Poland to attend World Youth Day.

Accompanied by Fr. Jeff Norfolk and Msgr. Charles Mangan, these pilgrims will be taking part in the six day long event started by Pope John Paul II.

World Youth Day is an event that focuses on strengthening the faith of young Catholics from all around the world.

“World Youth Day also helps us to know we are not alone in faith,” said senior Jordyn Hanson.

The event which is attended by hundreds of thousands shows young Catholics that they are not alone in their faith journey and that there are countless others going through the same everyday challenges.

World Youth Day is one of many pilgrimages that give Christians the opportunity to see first hand that everything they have learned about is backed by real things and real people.

“Pilgrimages are very important because they represent the faith. Pilgrimages, much like our faith, are a journey,” said Fr. Shaun Haggerty.

World Youth Day also has a profound effect on those non-Catholics who bear witness to it.

“It is such a big event that you can’t help but get caught up in the fervor of it all,” said Campus Minister Mr. Jon Konz.

For most non-Catholics seeing so many young people so deeply devoted to their faith shows them the strength that God has. It also causes them to question what role God plays in their life and if they should try to deepen their own faith life.

These effects have been so powerful that following the 1993 World Youth Day in Denver the crime rate plummeted and the perception of the city changed. Following the event, Denver went from being seen as a dangerous and unfavorable city to how it is today, a desirable city and vacation spot for many people.

Like any pilgrimage, World Youth Day, gets individuals out of their comfort zone and helps them to think about faith in a new light.

“Every Catholic should try and make at least two pilgrimages during their lifetime. The two most important pilgrimages that Catholics should try to make are to Rome and the Holy Land,” said Fr. Haggerty.

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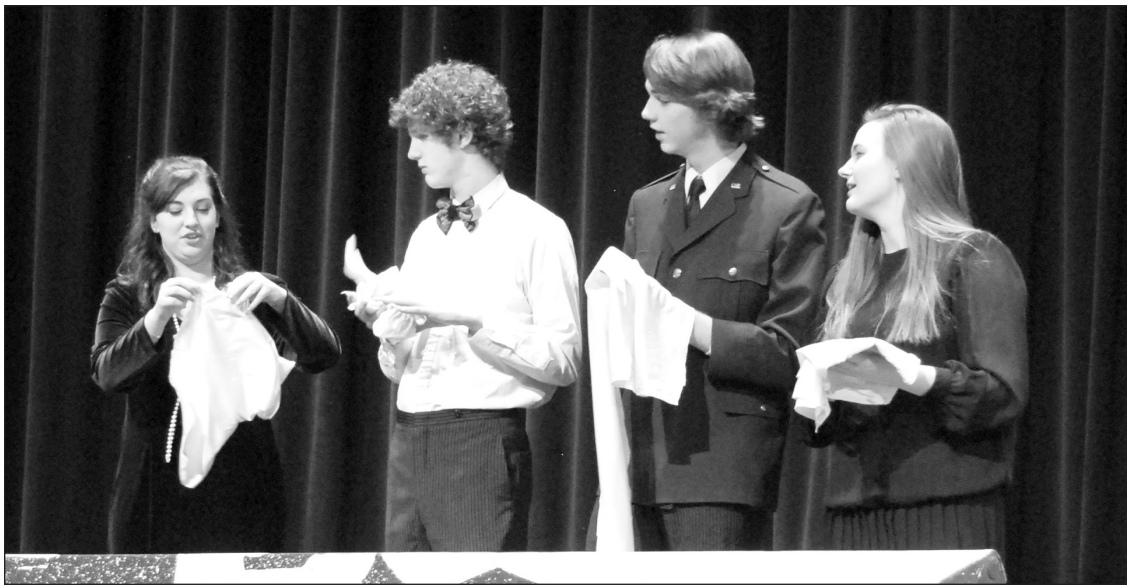


PHOTO CREDIT

The One Act cast rehearses the play *Humbletown*.

Comedy set for One Act festival as O’Gorman hosts for second year

Melissa Sierra
Assistant Editor

As part of the 2015-2016 theater schedule, O’Gorman’s drama department will be performing the play *Humbletown* as their competitive One Act.

Humbletown is a comedy with multiple characters that portray the convoluted history of a small Midwestern town. Depending on its narrator, the version of events differ.

One Act is a style of theater much different from others. Aside from the obvious aspect of having one act rather than the typical two or three, One Act plays from each participating South Dakota high school are performed at a tournament and judged in competition.

“One Act is definitely a challenge because going over the time

limit will result in disqualification,” said senior Kelly Maxwell. “We have to make sure to follow all of the rules because this is a state event.”

The short time frame that cast and crew have to put together the show has proven challenging.

“The most challenging part of practice is having to get our show perfect in the little time that we have,” said junior Sam Billion.

However, director Ms. Teresa Fester believes the group has worked well under time pressures.

“They are ahead of schedule and we are now able to focus on the details and polishing the show,” said Fester. “I am very pleased with the cast, costuming and tech.”

As a comedy, the cast believe *Humbletown* will be popular with audiences.

“I love *Humbletown* because it’s a crazy comedy that I hope people will enjoy,” said Maxwell. “I think my favorite part about this particular play is that it gives everyone a moment to shine on stage.”

Fester has set out a goal for *Humbletown* that expands past the competitive level.

“Personally, it is nice to remember that theatre has the power to make people laugh,” said Fester. “I would like the cast to know that they went out and gave it their best. You can’t assume anything in theatre because it is subjective - you have to do it because you love and believe in it.”

Humbletown will debut Feb. 4 at the State One Act tournament held at O’Gorman. The festival concludes Feb. 6.

Debaters keep sights set on nationals with qualifier, state tournament ahead

Ethan French
Joe Angerhofer

As the competitive season for debate heats up, O’Gorman’s team has had a hectic January and are going to have a busy February under coach Bob Stevens. Every weekend in January was scheduled with a major tournament.

Looking deeper into the month of February, the Rushmore District National Qualifying Tournament is the 19-20 and more into the future, the SDH-SAA state tournament is the first weekend in March.

The team is fairly young, with only one senior who is able to compete on a regular basis, Zach Shaw.

“At the beginning of the year it looked like OG would not be

“Our young debaters have performed very well and some of them are going to upset some more experienced debaters”
-Bob Stevens

as competitive,” said Shaw.

“That was not the case. We’ve been very competitive in each field of debate.”

Another notable veteran is

Alex King. King and Shaw have aspirations to qualify for nationals, and have been consistent finalists in Extemp.

The team hopes to make some noise in national qualifiers and state.

“We are in a strong position to qualify people to nationals,” said Shaw. “I’m very eager to see how the next few weeks go.”

The debate team had an outstanding past couple of seasons.

“Practice is typically divided between researching and working on cases and actual practice debates and extemp speeches,” said Stevens.

These practice plans are preparing them for the final stretch of the debate season.

Interpers prepare for quals after having successful year both in and out of state

Ben Longley
Assistant Editor

With oral interp season in full swing, interpers have begun to look forward to the national qualifier in late February. The national interp qualifier allows interpers to show off their abilities in hopes of qualifying for the national tournament in Salt Lake City, Utah.

So far this season the team’s hard work has been paying off. “We have been having a wonderful year and have actually placed the highest ever when traveling out of state,” said interp coach Ms. Teresa Fester.

Interpers practice their pieces daily and travel to different competitions nearly every weekend during the season. Despite

their hard work and preparation there are still things that are not always in their control.

“Coming off of a successful national last year the interpers tend to hope for the same thing when in fact it takes luck, timing, and talent - we can’t control all those things,” said Fester.

Currently in his last year of oral interp, senior Sean Miles looks forward to returning to the national competition. Last year Miles won the national title in the storytelling division.

Despite his own personal success, “being able to help someone else’s piece become even better is the best part about interp,” said Miles.

The national qualifier takes places on Feb. 19-20 followed by nationals in June.

Competition season begins for show choir members after months of practice

Shreya Chandran
Editor-in-Chief

As Ovation! begins to compete, they are hard at work practicing their songs and choreography.

“Ovation!’s biggest competitive strength is their vocal skill. All members are a participant of an O’Gorman choir, where they learn proper singing technique,” said show choir director Brittany Dardis.

Some members even go beyond the required singing lessons.

“Several Ovation! members continue their studies outside of school by taking voice lessons and participating in other choirs,” said Dardis. “Show choir performance scores are heavily weighted on vocal technique, so Ovation! can use that to their advantage.”

Ovation!’s strong vocals are important for competition, but they require weekly practices in order to hone their skills.

“The biggest challenge this season has been taking advantage of every rehearsal. Right now we are working on focusing only on show choir when at at rehearsals, leaving other stresses outside the door,” said Dardis.

As Ovation! begins to compete, Dardis hopes to see all their practices pay off.

“I am looking forward to seeing the students put all of their

hard work to the test.”

Though being involved in show choir requires dedication, many students find that this increased time spent together only makes their bond stronger.

“To me, show choir is more than an activity. I spend my Thursday nights at practices and my weekends at tournaments and after all that time, Ovation! has become my family,” said junior Sam Billion.

This sentiment is echoed by the senior members of Ovation! as well, who head off to college next year.

“I will miss the bond we make with each other and making music with really talented people,” said senior Madeleine Lauret.

Joining show choir was the right decision for many students, including sophomore Teresa Kayser.

“I grew up watching my siblings perform in Ovation and was always in awe of the whole aspect of show choir. I always told myself I would do it once I reached high school, but decided not to do it freshman year,” said Kayser.

“With lots of persuasion from Ovation alumni, current Ovation members, and friends I decided to try out.”

Ovation! will travel to several more tournaments and to prepare, they will continue to practice every week.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Senior Antonio Casiello dribbles past a Yankton defender. The Knights defeated Yankton 59-53.

Knights finding momentum after see-saw start to season

Connor Bell
Assistant Editor

With the basketball season well underway the Knights have moved to 9-4. Nine of those games have been played on the road.

The Knights played a span of seven games over a 13 day period. The team is led by returning starters Antonio Casiello and Ben Lauer. The Knights lost key players Braxton Elliott and Davis Cowan, who are now playing at the collegiate level.

After a rocky start, the team has won five of its last six games,

even while battling injuries. Senior Charles Illg is out for the season with a torn ACL that required surgery. The senior was a driving force behind the team. Illg still remains a strong part of the team while supporting the team with his positive attitude and outstanding work ethic.

"The team is working hard to keep playing even with the loss of a great player like Chuck," said senior Antonio Casiello. "He is still at every game and a huge part of the team."

As the Knights enter midseason play, the team has found its rhythm

and is winning game more consistently. The Knights are taking it one game at a time on the road to state.

"We aren't really thinking about state at the moment, but it is always sort of on your mind," said senior Jimmy Burma. "We are always trying to focus on the game at hand."

The Knights are hoping to top last year's third place finish as they lost to Sioux Falls Lincoln in the semifinals.

"We are hoping to win games consistently and get a shot at the state championship," said senior Chandler Schaeftbauer.

Strong early start gives powerlifters encouragement

Joe Angerhofer
Assistant Editor

The Knights powerlifters are off to a 1-0 start and hope to build on that success.

"We have an uncharacteristically good heavy-weight squad," said coach Casey Raaen.

The powerlifters this year have a lot to live up to seeing as Easton Schuster got the closest to placing nationally as they ever have.

Other household names like Sam West, Colin Zimprich and Michaela Goldammer left lots to be expected of this year's squad.

Getting better isn't as easy as it seems.

"There is so much more to lifting than just moving heavy things," said senior powerlifter Logan Kobernusz. "Sometimes people gain mass and bulk up but the outcome doesn't necessarily mean that they will be able to move more weight. Practicing right is important."

Raaen says enthusiasm has given them an edge.

"The freshman girls this year brought an unprecedented amount of enthusiasm, and really encouraged each other to get after

"There is so much more to lifting than just moving heavy things."

-Logan Kobernusz

things. I've been coach for seven years now and this is the most enthusiastic group I've ever had," said Raaen.

The goal of powerlifting isn't just competing but preparing athletes. "Most sports are built around strength. Powerlifting helps athletes build the foundation needed to excel at any specific sport," said Raaen. Lifting is a good activity that everyone can get behind.

"Ultimately we want to get more people who are serious about the sport - not just pure numbers - but people who want to be here and get better," said Raaen.

Raaen explained that his time here has been a great experience and he's learned more already than he could have hoped.

The O'Gorman Invite was held Jan. 30. Results were not available at press time.

Lady Knights aim for return to state

Ethan French
Assistant Editor

The second half of the Lady Knight's season is around the corner and they have not suffered a loss as they are sitting at 12-0.

The Lady Knights knocked off rival Sioux Falls Roosevelt 36-23 to start the season. Since then the team has cruised to victories over in-state and out-of-state foes. The Lady Knights defeated Crofton, Neb. 43-34 at the Pentagon in December. Crofton has won 12 of its first 14 games.

"We are off to a really nice start, the girls are working hard and striving to get better every day," said head coach Kent Kolsrud.

Although there are high ex-

pectations due to the tremendous start, "it is very important that we continue to improve and are playing our best basketball at district tournament time in late February," said Kolsrud.

The Lady Knights are a relatively young squad with only four seniors. Last season the Lady Knights were led by Dalee Stene and Jess Mieras, both of whom graduated. There was a question as to the impact that might have this season however,

"We have good leadership and seem to have good chemistry," said Kolsrud.

The loss of key seniors means that players have to step up and fill their roles. Juniors Ashlee Beacom, Sebastian Akoi and Kendyl Kreber have risen to the chal-

lenge and taken on solid minutes in the varsity setting.

The Knights chemistry has been built up for multiple years. "All of the starters have been playing together since third grade," said senior Rachel Townsend. This is astounding for expectations, as successful teams have good teamwork and chemistry.

The Lady Knights finished second last season and there are high hopes to compete for a title.

"Our expectations are really high, seeing how far we got last year it is definitely motivation for us," said Townsend.

As the season continues, the Lady Knights have yet to play Sioux Falls Washington twice - a team that has won 11 of its first 12 games.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Junior Ashlee Beacom drives to the basket against a Yankton defender on January 19. The Lady Knights defeated Yankton 54-30.

Gymnastics team hopes to place in top three at state meet in February

Melissa Sierra
Assistant Editor

As their season kicks off, the O'Gorman gymnastics team has been working hard to adjust to changes, including the introduction of new coach Ms. Skye Bork.

"My goal for the team is to come out of state no lower than third," said Bork. "However I think we can do even better than that."

These changes have come as a pleasant surprise for veteran gymnast senior Jenae Porter, noting a difference in the team's physical stamina from prior years.

"I would say coach Bork has a very different coaching style than our previous coach, and I think that the change in general was exactly what we needed," said Porter.

In regards to leadership, Porter still intends to use her role as co-captain to build up the team.

"My goal as a senior has been

to give the rest of our girls the confidence to try something new and to teach them to not take this intimidating sport so seriously," said Porter. "Of course gymnastics is a serious and intense sport, but that's why being able to laugh at yourself when you mess up is so important."

"Judging has helped my coaching abilities in that I know what to look for when evaluating the gymnasts' routines," said Bork. "It's not all about difficulty level. It's more about the execution and amplitude of each skill."

Porter cites O'Gorman's faith as a core part of their success.

"We stand apart from other teams because of our faith aspect," said Porter. "We pray before every competition, affirming our abilities to perform and interceding through Mary Queen of Victory to bless our efforts with strong performances."

The state meet is in Brookings on Feb. 12.

Wrestlers aim for state tournament as team looks to build confidence

Ethan French
Assistant Editor

The O'Gorman wrestling team has faced many top-tier wrestlers as they have made their way through another season.

"We have faced very tough competition all year," said second year coach Matt Lynch.

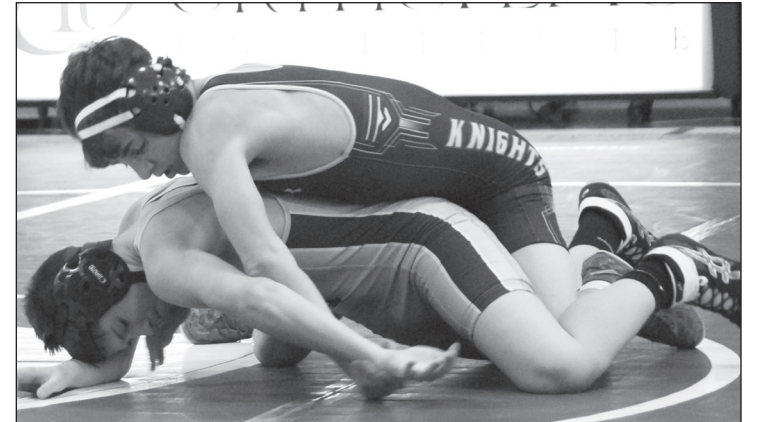
They have wrestled top talent across the state.

"The competition faced so far is very good and our team as a whole has wrestled well in all the tournaments and duels we've been in this year," said senior Gage Hillberg.

Tigh Hight took home first place in the Rock Valley, Iowa tournament.

"We have four to six guys that are in great position to place in the top four spots at regions to qualify [for state]," said Lynch.

"We have other guys that have the ability to beat people they shouldn't on paper," said



KNIGHT SCROLL

Junior Tigh Hight wrestles his Tea opponent.

Lynch. That is where the tough schedule might hide the true talent of some O'Gorman wrestlers.

"We are really just waiting for them to see what we see, as they gain confidence in themselves and each other. Who knows what will happen at the state tournament if we wrestle well," said Lynch.

Senior Hillberg has tried to give his fellow wrestlers confidence. "I've told everyone on the

team this year don't play yourself, because you are better than you think," said Hillberg.

"The expectations are higher than all the previous years I've wrestled," said Hillberg.

"The O'Gorman wrestling program is improving quite rapidly," said Lynch. "We are excited to enter the last part of the season with continued progression and building self-confidence."

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Oscars set to honor Hollywood’s best

Melissa Sierra
Assistant Editor

Best Picture
Nominees

Actor in a Leading Role
Nominees

Actress in a Leading Role
Nominees

Best Director
Nominees

With the *The Revenant* sweeping the Golden Globes and the Oscars just around the corner, many wonder if Leonardo DiCaprio will receive well deserved recognition once again this award season.

However, the categories are each stacked with top contenders, making it difficult to predict outcomes.



Bridge of Spies
Brooklyn
Mad Max: Fury Road
Room
Spotlight
The Big Short
The Martian
The Revenant

Spotlight has received critical praise despite its relatively ‘small scale budget’ and indie style. Unlike some of its fellow nominees, blockbusters like *Mad Max: Fury Road* and *The Martian*, *Spotlight* relies more on the work of its actors and screenplay, rather than special effects.

However, *The Big Short* and *The Revenant* are more favored and likely to take home Best Picture, the latter already winning three Golden Globes.

Prediction: *The Revenant*

Bryan Cranston, *Trumbo*
Matt Damon, *The Martian*
Leonardo DiCaprio, *The Revenant*
Michael Fassbender, *Steve Jobs*
Eddie Redmayne, *The Danish Girl*

It seems that Leonardo DiCaprio will be receiving his first Oscar for his role as hunter Hugh Glass in *The Revenant*.

The only other potential contender for Best Actor would be Michael Fassbender’s portrayal of Steve Jobs, but even this comes far behind.

DiCaprio’s role has been universally praised for bringing recognition to Native American rights, an issue DiCaprio discussed during his acceptance speech at the Golden Globes.

DiCaprio displayed true depth as an actor by providing emotion to a character despite his limited speaking abilities.

Prediction: Leonardo DiCaprio

Cate Blanchett, *Carol*
Brie Larson, *Room*
Jennifer Lawrence, *Joy*
Charlotte Rampling, *45 Years*
Saoirse Ronan, *Brooklyn*

Although Jennifer Lawrence recently won a Golden Globe for her role in *Joy*, she is not anticipated to do the same at the Oscars. Instead, Brie Larson and Saoirse Ronan are more likely to battle it out for the Oscar.

While Lawrence won for Best Actress in a Motion Picture Musical or Comedy, Larson won a Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Drama Motion Picture for *Room*.

Now as both are put up in the same category, it is predicted Larson or Ronan will take home an Oscar due to their powerful performances and up-and-coming status.

Prediction: Brie Larson

Tom McCarthy, *Spotlight*
Adam McKay, *The Big Short*
George Miller, *Mad Max: Fury Road*
Alejandro G Inarritu, *The Revenant*
Lenny Abrahamson, *Room*

The anticipated winner in this category is George Miller for *Mad Max: Fury Road*, as a 70-year-old veteran in the field.

This is Miller’s first nomination. Left off the list was *The Martian* director Ridley Scott, then replaced by Lenny Abrahamson for *The Room*.

Although receiving praise on its own, this was unexpected with *The Room* not being anticipated as a threat.

Prediction: George Miller

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What are you giving for Valentine’s Day?



“A big smooch”
- Nick Maxwell



“Watch Netflix
with Ben & Jerry”
- Morgan Polak



“Wait, I thought she was
supposed to do
something for me?”
- Sam Billion



“Wear an adult diaper under my
formal dress and shoot at him
with real arrows”
- Alex Anderson



“Umm...I haven’t thought that
far ahead...flowers...
dinner...and candy”
- Mr. LeBrun

In & Out

Basketball	Football
DJ Khaled	Fetty Wap
Frigid Cold	Warm Weather
Dabbing	Nae Nae / Whip
Likes	Favorites
After School	Yik Yak
\$ Star Wars \$	Avatar
Dress Code	Quarter-Zips
Bernie	Hillary
Donald Trump	Thought Filter
Senioritis	Hard Work
Making a Murderer	Breaking Bad
Alabama	Ohio State
Steph Curry	Lebron James
Cam Newton	Aaron Rodgers
Cheap Gas	Broke Students

It’s Time
Salaries need to be priority
as school moves forward

Shreya Chandran
Editor-in-Chief

Every year we hear the same thing. South Dakota consistently sits at the bottom of the list of teacher salary per state. While it’s true that part of this is due to the comparatively lower living cost in this state, a full \$10,000 difference cannot be disregarded. The public school salary that is reported in South Dakota is low; in the SFCS system, that salary is reduced further.

While O’Gorman’s ACT scores are touted as superior to both the public schools’ and national average, the teachers that aid in producing this excellence receive little reward. But this discrepancy could be remedied in the near future, if The Teachers and Staff Salary Initiative is put into practice.

Usually, teacher salaries increase by 2.5-4 percent each year. This latest plan, spearheaded by Michelle Katen, increases salaries by 10 percent.

This is a radical change, and one that is hard to envision. But the proposed change could be enacted through three methods. The first method is a regular increase of 3.5 percent, which would have occurred normally.



The second method involves boosting enrollment, because with more students comes more tuition payments, and the third is holding a drive with a goal of half a million dollars in donations raised.

Students at O’Gorman participate in various extracurriculars, ranging from athletics to the arts, and give back through Christian service. Despite the packed schedule, they still manage to maintain stellar grades.

This ability to be a well-rounded student stems from the staff. The awards that O’Gorman wins, such as the title of Blue Ribbon school, are owed in part to its teachers. The education at O’Gorman stands far above that of any public school in Sioux Falls, yet its teachers are incon-

ceivably paid less.

The accolades the SFCS system has earned through the caliber of its teachers offers an objective reason why this initiative needs to be enacted.

Despite the low pay, SFCS teachers are committed to their students.

Ms. Schnell is there in the morning, during her lunch, and after school to go through physics book problems with students.

Mrs. Jones and Mr. Hagg spend their time sitting with students to discuss everything from college to the stress of classes.

Mr. Van Engen offers to read students’ college essays while Mr. Lindemann sits at his desk in the morning and draws derivatives until students understand.

The list is endless of teachers who do the same. All eight schools in the system have teachers who do more than the work that is expected of them and that kind of commitment must be rewarded.

In the end, raising teacher salaries shouldn’t even be a question. After seeing countless O’Gorman students succeed in everything from college to work to spiritual life, paying teachers a fraction of what they’re worth is the least we can do.



Jackrabbit Takeout 2016.

Bring your appetite.

O'Gorman High School students & parents

Wednesday • February 3, 2016 • 5-7 pm

Pizza Ranch, 2717 West 41st Street, Sioux Falls, SD

- *Visit with current SDSU students and Admissions representatives*
- *Learn about financial aid, scholarships, housing and more*



Friday Jackrabbit Previews

January 29 / February 5, 12, 19 / March 4, 18

Daily Visits Monday-Friday

between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

***To schedule a visit to campus:
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